

PEEL HERITAGE COMPLEX

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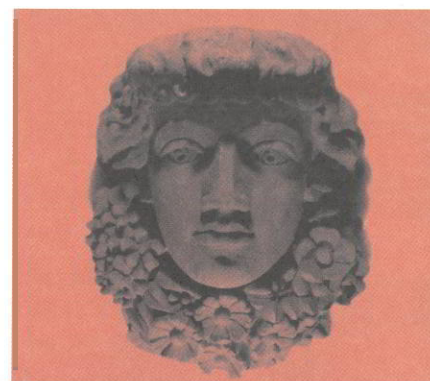
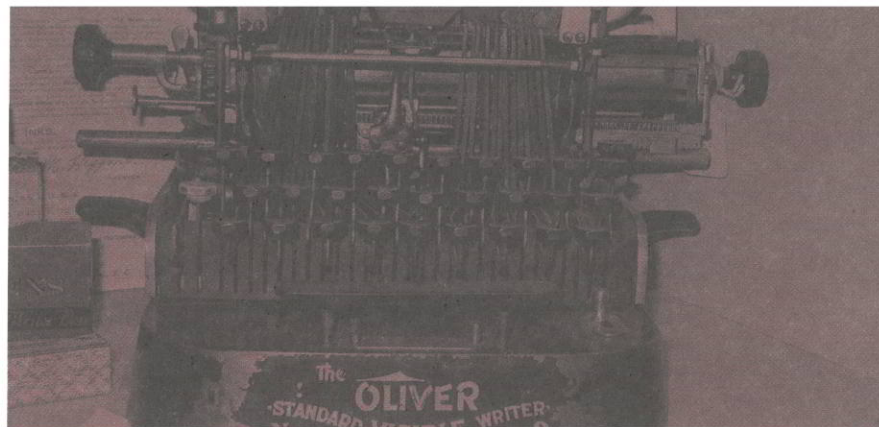
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Spring Events

Spring 2008
35th Annual Juried Show

30 April – 15 June 2008

Opening: Wednesday April 30th 8 – 10:00

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the Annual Juried Show making it one of the longest running juried exhibitions in Ontario. Not long after the Peel Museum and Art Gallery opened its doors in 1968, the Gallery's Committee decided to host an annual juried exhibition. In May 1974 after much planning on the part of Gallery volunteers, our first juried show was held.

Numerous emerging artists and juried show prizewinners have been introduced to the Gallery's public in follow-up group and solo showings. Each year the show attracts hundreds of artists and has a reputation in the arts community for its high caliber. The public is always assured of a diverse range of media and styles in this annual exhibition that challenges and entertains.



Early press photo with long-time volunteer Lenore Kummel

Volunteer support has always been the backbone of the Juried Show beginning with the Peel Gallery Volunteer Group and continuing today with volunteers who provide assistance with the organization of the exhibition.

Patrons like local businessman John Cutruzzola make it possible for the Complex to support and honour local and regional artists. The establishment of the John Cutruzzola Juried Show Endowment Fund provides prize money and support which assists emerging Canadian talent and provides them with an opportunity to advance their careers.

Our thanks go to John and the staff of Inzola Construction for their volunteer and fundraising support of regional and southern Ontario artists. This year we are pleased to announce that the \$1,000 prize for *Best in Show* is thanks to the John Cutruzzola Juried Show Endowment Fund. As well, the \$350 *Prize for Best Landscape* is being sponsored by Colony Ford Lincoln of Brampton.

Upcoming Events

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday April 30, 7 – 8:00 p.m.

All members in good standing are encouraged to attend the AGM of the Peel Heritage Complex on Wednesday April 30th from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. After the meeting, members are encouraged to stay for the opening of the 35th Annual Juried Show.

The Actors Studio – Spring Session starts April 20th

Do Your Things Productions and Peel Heritage Complex are proud to present The Actors Studio's spring session. See enclosed flyer for details.

May is Museum Month

Take a break from your spring cleaning and yard work and bring the family for a FREE visit (May 1 to 31); explore hands-on activities and visit our wonderful Arctic Zoo exhibit of Inuit art and sculpture (hopefully our indoor igloo won't melt!)

Each Sunday afternoon in May there will be a free guided tour of our popular exhibits including the Archaeology and First Nations, Settlement, Trades, AVRO Arrow and Jail galleries. Tours will commence at 2 pm in the main lobby.

Thursday, May 15, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Free presentation on ***Caring for Family Treasures***, presented by Complex staff.

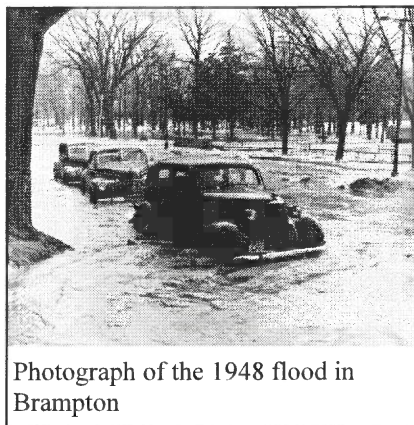
Note: this is NOT an appraisal event; do not bring your treasures with you! Using examples from the Museum's collection of textiles, toys, quilts and tools you will learn the *do's and don'ts* of providing safe storage at home for your personal artifacts. No charge, but seating is limited, call to R.S.V.P. at 905-791-4055.

Heritage Yard Sale

Saturday June 21, 9 a.m. – 12 noon.

The Heritage Yard Sale is back, Saturday June 21, 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Downtown Brampton will be bustling with our yard sale, the John Cutruzzola Pancake Breakfast for the Arts at Garden Square (in front of the Rose Theatre) and the opening of the Farmer's Market.

The Complex will have their used book table and rental tables are available for those wishing to do some spring cleaning. Table rental for members is \$20, general public \$25. To rent a table call 905-791-4055 extension 6211.



Photograph of the 1948 flood in Brampton

Free Walking Tour ~ Brampton's Lost River: following the flood of 1948

**Saturday June 21
11 - 12:30 pm**

Led by Steve Collie of the Brampton Heritage Board.

Join Brampton's renowned walking tour

guide, Steve Collie, on a fun-filled and informative walk along the former path of the Etobicoke Creek. March 2008 marked the 60th anniversary of a devastating flood, when the Etobicoke spilled its banks, sending millions of gallons of floodwater into downtown Brampton. Now a distant memory for long time residents, the existence of the creek and its turbulent history is unknown to many newcomers. Steve blends history with humour and his walking tours never fail to show participants at least one vestige of their community's past long hidden from view.

Tour will leave from the front steps of the Peel Heritage Complex. Contact Antonietta Minichillo, Heritage Coordinator for the City of Brampton 905-874-3744 for more information.

Add a visit to the Museum to your Summer Schedule

Visit the Laboratories and Longhouses exhibition this summer to see the updates and improvements. New information and displays will be available for visitors to explore!

Summer Camp

The Actors Studio is gearing up for a fun-filled, exciting summer! Expect a kaleidoscope of classes ranging from art to drama to dance; there's something for everyone. See enclosed flyer for details.

art-i-fact

In this issue of Strata, art-i-fact profiles a popular document from the PHC Archives collection.

By definition items in the Archives collection are unique, one of a kind, irreplaceable documents But there are always exceptions. Recently Archives Volunteers Cindy Wilson and Carol Williams have created a great new finding aid to one of these exceptions, **postcards** in our collection.

Postcards are an important archival resource. Often there are notes about a certain event or place on one side, while on the flip side there are often street scenes of various places. Post cards were mass produced but of those that survive, many have some research value – and become “archival” in nature.

Cindy and Carol have organized these cards by place name, and further subdivided some by subject, i.e. churches, sports, streets, etc. The finding aid has been developed in such a way that new entries can be added as more postcards are donated to the collection.



1913 postcard view of Dundas St.



2007 view of Dundas St.

The two views of Dundas St. near Mississauga Road (look for the spire and steeple of St. Peter's Anglican Church, Erindale) illustrate the important role postcards from the past play in documenting change. (Thanks to Matthew Wilkinson of Heritage Mississauga for the 2007 view.)

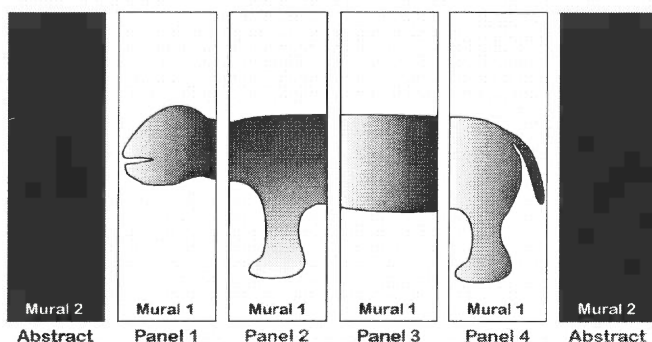
If you have any postcards of Peel County places, events and or people, please contact Reference Archivist Brian Gilchrist, 905-791-4055, ext. 3630

Projects and Grants

Art Exchange: The 2400 KM Painting:

Funded by the Brampton and Area Community Foundation, this project is a partnership between students from Robert F Hall C.S.S. in Caledon East, Ontario and Kiilnik High School, Cambridge Bay, Nunavut. The students are creating two murals to hang in the Arctic Zoo exhibition. Both murals will consist of 4 fabric panels each, resulting in one mural depicting a fantastic animal; the other mural will be an “artistic dialogue” between both schools. Neither school will see what the other is doing until all panels are installed in the exhibition. Currently, both schools are working on the first two panels on the animal mural; Robert F. Hall C.S.S has completed the animal's head, while Kiilnik students are working on the animal's neck and forelegs. As well, all four panels in the “artistic dialogue” are well underway!

Art Exchange: The 2,400 KM Painting



New Horizons for Seniors ~ Connections 2008

Funding from the Department of Human Resources New Horizons for Seniors program awarded the PHC a grant for Connections, a series of PowerPoint presentations for our seniors outreach program. The first PowerPoint Presentation,

designed for seniors will commence in April 2008. Heritage Educator, Diane Pierce created **Expression in Water-colour** highlighting paintings from our Permanent Collection and from the Canadian Society of Paintings in Water-colour Diploma Collection. Seniors will learn a basic history of the medium, techniques and brief histories of featured artists. The presentation is accompanied by soothing music and is anticipated to be a big hit with seniors at the 30 private and Regional sites the Complex currently visits.

Young Canada Works ~ Internship for the Archives

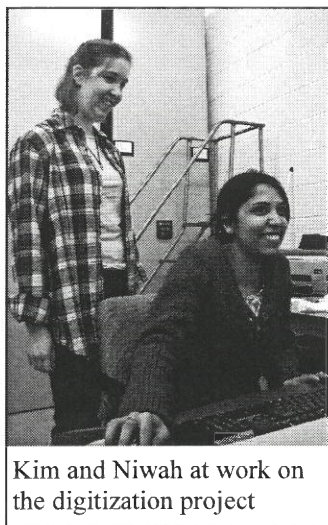
Since November 2007, Martha Tuff has created descriptive lists called finding aids for five sets of municipal records held by the Archives. This work has included arranging and describing photographs, negatives, microfilm, maps, sound recordings, moving images and a variety of textual material. She has also experienced life in the reading room by guiding researchers through various projects be it researching a house, a family member or a place in time.

"I am very happy to have spent my internship here," says Martha. "This experience has allowed me to take archival theory learned in the classroom into the reading room. The PHC is a warm, fun, and friendly place and working with wonderful people and a variety of astounding archival materials has led to a very rewarding and interesting 5 months."

One of these interesting moments came when she was arranging and describing letters written by the residents of the Township of Toronto in 1965 on the cusp

of receiving approval for town status. The Clerk sought resident feedback on the name of their new town and it seems all had their say. From school children's uneven scrawl to typed responses on fancy stationary, the letters spanned from January to March and a tally was then taken to determine the most popular choice. The proposed names included "Appleville", "Cooksport", and "Kennedytown" (in honour of President Kennedy), with the clear winner being "Mississauga." While some respondents took their vote very seriously, some took the opportunity for wit. The undated letter signed by "B. Brainwave" surmised, "since we live in the Banana Belt in Peel, could we not name it "Banana Peel?"

Martha says "The variety of municipal records in the Archives is amazing. One expects minutes, proceedings, bylaws and the like, and does not expect to be humoured, inspired or moved by these records. But that is the beauty of the archives, the story and the spirit of the people of the region can be found in so many different ways" and is very pleased to have experienced it first hand.



Kim and Niwah at work on the digitization project

Digitizing Peel Part II The Archives Collection

Six months and six thousand digital images later, the Archives flatbed scanner is taking a much deserved break! So too are the contract staff who ran the project so successfully: Kim Taylor and Niwah Visser. The project was made possible through a grant from the Department of Heritage, Museum Assistance Program (MAP). Development Coordinator Josie Premzell wrote the second of two successful MAP grant applications and funding was received in August 2007.

The Archives has over 200,000 images in a variety of formats – from one-of-a-kind silver plated daguerreotypes produced in

the 1860s to professional colour portraits of the mid 20th century. Accessing the images is difficult because many of the formats, such as glass plate negatives, are inherently fragile and should be handled as little as possible. This marvellous vault of images has been opened through the use of scanning and digital file management.

To sample the collection representatively, portions of the following collections were selected for scanning:

- Brampton Studio Photographer's Collection of late 19th c. glass plate negatives; mainly portraits
- Russell K. Cooper Collection – mid 20th c. collection of negatives; primarily news images
- Peel Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History Collection – mid to late 20th c. local history scrapbooks
- Arthur Luker Collection – early 20th c. negatives and prints from Toronto Township (now Mississauga)
- Cecil Henry collection – mid 20th c. Brampton streetscapes
- Stubbs collection – turn of the century glass plate negatives from Caledon
- Selections from the main photographic collection

Both Kim and Niwah have interesting observations on the project and the value of photographs. "It was an amazing project - I loved working with the glass plate negatives. To see an image that no one has viewed for over 100 years was wonderful," says Kim. She adds "people really need to take care of their family photographs by identifying the people and dates. It's so sad to see a beautiful image without identification." Niwah Visser, a professional photographer, has a new-found appreciation for the quality of film-based photography. "People think digital is everything, but medium



format film has phenomenal clarity." Niwah has also been impressed with the importance of taking care of family images and has asked her Dad, 'where are all our old photographs? Are they stored safely?'

All the digital images have been linked to the Archives digital image database, and are searchable in the archives by place name, title



Digitized images include 1800s glass plate negatives & 1900s images, like the above image of the 1948 flood.

and subject. A selection will be uploaded to VIK, the Complex's *Visitor Information Kiosk* which can be browsed by visitors to the museum. Plans are underway to make the images available through the Complex's web page.

Acting Curator Diane Allengame says "this project has gone a long way to dispel the myth that things disappear into the Archives and are never seen again. Kim and Niwah have shown incredible technical competence in their work and this project has set the bar for subsequent scanning projects."

Donors

This year the Art Gallery of Peel will be organizing the 35th Annual Juried Show of Fine Art.

Patrons and volunteers such as **John Cutruzzola** make it possible for the Complex to support and honour local and regional artists. John established the *John Cutruzzola Juried Show Endowment Fund* several years ago and today, the Endowment Fund allows the Gallery to award the winner of *Best in Show* with a prize of \$1,000. Financial assistance, such as the Best in Show Award provide emerging Canadian artists with an opportunity to advance their careers.

Our thanks to John for his continued support of regional and southern Ontario artists.

Sponsors

Colony Ford of Brampton – supporting arts and heritage in the community

Colony's support of arts and heritage in the community is very much appreciated. The staff at Colony are happy to discuss special pricing for members, volunteers and donors of the Heritage Complex who are considering the purchase or lease of a new Ford or Lincoln vehicle. They also carry a wide selection of pre-owned vehicles that are ready for immediate delivery. Contact Colony President, David Kerr, at 905-451-4094 for more information.

The Whitney Group

The Whitney Community Gallery is devoted to showcasing Peel artists, craftspeople and collectors. This premier exhibition area; an ideal introduction to the many facets of Peel's cultural life, is made possible thanks to The Whitney Group. *The Whitney Community Gallery* sponsorship allows the Peel Heritage Complex to explore new partnerships and keeps arts and culture alive in our community. Our thanks to The Whitney Group for their ongoing support!

Collection Highlights

The Region of Peel Archives ~ Preserving Peel's past

The Archives was created by the Region in 1977 and now houses over 2000 cubic feet of records. What began initially as a collection of government records has expanded to include business records, correspondence, deeds, maps, newspapers, photographs, posters and more. Over 30,000 images show Peel from its earliest days to the present. The collection is housed in an environmentally monitored, secured room with state-of-the-art electronic compact shelving and fire suppression.

Each year about 1000 researchers use the Archives. A large number are genealogists working on their family history, but others include teachers, students, lawyers, engineers, T.V. and film researchers and local history buffs.

What's really in the Archives and how can I see it?

An archives is like a library in that it provides information, but because of the fragile and valuable nature of the records involved they are not available on shelves. So how do you find out what we've got? A number of guides and indexes have been prepared to help you. Our recent acquisitions catalogue, for example, is a database printout describing all the records received in the last ten years. We are working on putting the database on line, and in the meantime staff can search the database for you.

All you need to do research is an Archives Registration Card, which you are given when you arrive. After you tell us what you're interested in, the Reference Archivist will direct you to the sources most likely to be of use. If you are interested in family history, for example, the first stop is usually the Census Returns microfilm, which covers the years 1851-1911. If you are interested in property research you might be directed to our 1859 Peel County map, or the 1877 Historical Atlas of Peel showing land owner's names.

If you need original records we'll show you how to fill out a request slip, and the boxes will be retrieved by staff. We provide cotton gloves to protect the documents, and pencils for your notes. Photocopies are available of most records for a fee.

Other archives in the area: Library and Archives Canada: www.collectionscanada.ca

Archives of Ontario:
www.archives.gov.on.ca

Dufferin County Archives:
www.dufferinmuseum.com

Wellington County Archives:
www.wcm.on.ca

Genealogy – finding the roots and branches of your family tree!

If you have a family connection in Peel County, we can help you uncover your family's past. Even if you don't have a Peel connection, our expert staff can direct you to the appropriate archives or websites for the area you are interested in and help you get started.

There are a few rules of thumb for beginning genealogists: First, arm yourself with a notebook and start with yourself, record whatever birth and marriage information you know. Start a separate page for each of your parents, and record what you know about them. Each parent had two parents, start pages for them. Now you have six individuals to research. Try to establish a name, place and date for each birth, marriage and death in your immediate family. Record the names of churches, cemeteries, hospitals – anything you think might be helpful later in tracking down official records.

Look for important family papers such as birth certificates, immigration papers, and old photograph albums. While copies of these kinds of documents are usually available, it will save you much time and energy to use what you have. It is very important to talk to family members, especially seniors. Don't hesitate to do this – most seniors are thrilled that someone is taking an interest in them and the family history.

Some links we like:

www.cyndislist.com

www.familysearch.org

www.hhpl.on.ca/sigs/oghp

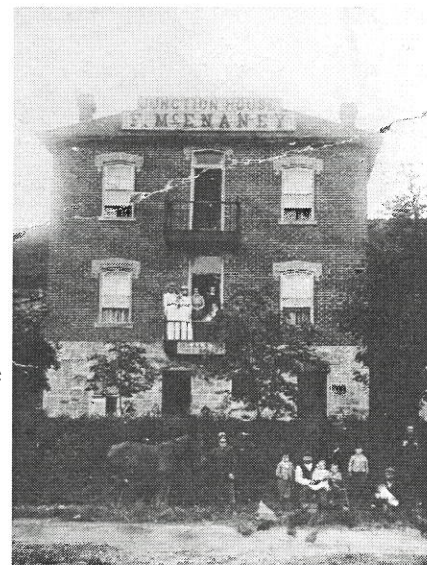
How old is my house?

Dating your older Peel house can be a real challenge, but a rewarding one. If your home was built in Peel before 1920 we can likely help you uncover some information on it. If nothing else, we have a number of excellent local history books to help you understand how your community developed.

The House Detective Kit

Gather the following before you come to the Archives: several clear colour photographs of the house from the street and side; a copy of your deed or tax bill showing the legal description of the house (different from the municipal address); a copy of the title search done at the time you acquired the property; any information or clues to the possible age of the house given to you by neighbours, former residents etc.

At the Archives you will work with the Land and Property records to track the legal ownership of the land the house sits upon. Noting mortgages and changes in property value are often the best clues as to the age of a building. Building permits were not required until the second half of the 20th century and very few have survived. In addition, we have very few architectural plans. But maps and photographs may show your house; and often the best clues are in the design elements of the house itself. Our staff can examine the photographs and provide direction.



Links for information about old houses:

<http://www.oldhouseweb.com/>

<http://www.oldhousejournal.com/>

<http://www.oldhousechronicle.com/>

How can I take care of my own treasures?

Do you have old newspapers, photographs, letters and diaries? Even if they are not as old as the material in the Archives they are still important and will become increasingly valuable as time goes by ... but only if they are stored properly.

Try to keep your paper treasures dry, dark and flat. Basements and attics are not good places because the temperature and humidity tend to fluctuate which is very destructive. Folded newspapers and other items generally discolour and weaken along the fold line first; so try to store the items flat. If you just have a few things, purchase a couple of sheets of acid-free mat board from a framing store and keep your items between the sheets. These sheets can also be cut to size. All paper, but particularly photographs are sensitive to light. Have copies made if you want to display them, and keep the originals in a covered box. Another danger to paper and photos is the oil in skin, so handle only by the extreme edges. If you are going to be organizing your collection, wear a pair of white cotton gloves.

Old photographs should be identified on the back using pencil. Modern prints have a plastic coating which makes writing difficult. Several scrapbook suppliers sell a soft pencil for this purpose. You can always bring your paper treasures into the Archives for a free consultation.

Links for archival quality storage supplies:

www.gaylord.com/archival or

www.carmclean.ca

Volunteers

We are currently accepting volunteer applications for teen summer projects. Call 905-791-4055 ext. 6211 to receive an application.

David Somers Update

Thanks to all our members, donors and volunteers who have expressed concern about the health of curator David Somers. David completed the first phase of his cancer treatment in March of 2008. The second phase begins in April and he hopes to be back at the helm by the fall of 2008.



Peel Heritage Complex

9 Wellington St. E.

Brampton, ON L6W 1Y1

905-791-4055

The Peel Heritage Complex is generously funded by the Region of Peel with additional support from the Ontario Arts Council and the Ontario Ministry of Culture. Volunteers, members, donors, local businesses and corporations contribute to the Peel Heritage Complex financially and through continued community support.

 **Region of Peel**
Working for you

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday to Friday: 10 am to 4:30 p.m.

Thursdays: 6 to 9 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: Noon to 4:30 p.m.

Holiday Hours: Closed: Good Friday March 21, Victoria Day Monday May 19, Canada Day Tuesday July 1. (Open Monday June 30)

Note: The Region of Peel Archives is not open Thursday evenings or on Sundays.

PARKING

There is parking onsite and handicapped access is from the parking lot. There is additional paid parking at Brampton City Hall.